

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A washing machine, comprising:
  - a housing;
  - a tub provided in the housing;
  - a drum rotatably installed in the tub and configured to hold a receive laundry items therein; and
  - a protecting member provided at an outer surface of the tub to prevent water from accessing an electric apparatus installed at and configured to divert water away from at least one corresponding electrical component which is operably coupled to the tub.
- 2-3. (Cancelled).
4. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the protecting member ~~encloses the electric apparatus in part~~ is configured to at least partially enclose the at least one corresponding electrical component.

5. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the protecting member ~~is comprises~~ at least one rib provided ~~in a vicinity of the electric apparatus~~ proximate the at least one corresponding electrical component.

6. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~the water flows~~ the water comprises water flowing along an outer ~~circumference~~ circumferential surface of the tub or ~~falls from an inside~~ accumulated on an interior of the housing.

7. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the protecting member is ~~built in one body of~~ formed integral with the tub or is attached to the tub.

8. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the protecting member comprises a first rib ~~preventing the water~~ configured to prevent water from accessing a motor installed at the tub.

9. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 8, wherein the motor is installed at a rear side of the tub.

10. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 8, wherein the first rib ~~is provided in a vicinity of~~ extends outward from an outer surface of the tub which is proximate the motor.

11. (Original) The washing machine as claimed in claim 8, wherein the first rib is disposed over the motor.

12. (Original) The washing machine as claimed in claim 8, wherein the first rib has a predetermined curvature.

13. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 8, wherein the ~~first rib leaves a predetermined gap from~~ is formed between the first rib and the motor.

14. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 8, wherein the protecting member further comprises a at least one second rib ~~preventing the water configured to prevent water~~ from accessing a heater installed in the tub.

15. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 14, wherein the heater is inserted in the tub.

16. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 14, wherein the at least one second tub is provided in a vicinity of rib extends from an outer surface of the tub proximate a terminal for supplying configured to supply power to the heater.

17. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim ~~[[14]]~~ 16, wherein the at least one second rib is provided in a vicinity of comprises a pair of second ribs each extending from an outer surface of the tub proximate right and left sides of the terminal.

18. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 14, wherein the at least one second rib downwardly extends downward from an outer circumference circumferential surface of the tub.

19. (New) The washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the protecting member comprises a curved first rib which extends outward from an outer rear portion of the tub, wherein the first rib is configured to at least partially cover a motor which is operably coupled to the tub.

20. (New) The washing machine as claimed in claim 19, wherein the protecting member further comprises a pair of second ribs, wherein each second rib extends downward from an outer circumferential portion of the tub, and wherein the pair of second ribs are configured to at least partially cover a heater which is operably coupled to the tub.

21. (New) The washing machine as claimed in claim 20, wherein the first rib has a predetermined radius of curvature which causes water accumulated on a top panel of the housing to be diverted away from the motor and toward a bottom portion of the housing.

22. (New) The washing machine as claimed in claim 21, wherein the heater comprises a heater element disposed within a cavity of the tub, and a terminal coupled to the heater element at an outer surface of the tub and configured to provide power to the heater element, wherein the pair of second ribs are configured to at least partially enclose the terminal.

23. (New) A washing machine, comprising:  
a housing;  
a tub provided in the housing;

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a drum rotatably installed in the tub and configured to receive laundry items therein; and

a protecting member coupled to the tub and configured to at least partially shield an electrical component mounted on the tub from water.